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THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

WITH THE FRESHEST ADVICES, BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTICK.

IN CIVITATE LIBERA LINGUAM MENTEMQUE LIBERAS ESSE DEBERE.----*Suet.* in TIB. S. 28.

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WILLIAMSBURG, APRIL 23, 1776.

AS GENERAL LEE *muſt, in a great Meaſure, regulate the Motions of the Continental Troops under his Command, according to the internal Force of the Colony, the Committees of the different Counties are requeſted to ſend into Head Quarters a Return of their Minute-Men, with the State and Condition of their Arms.*

From the PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL.

Meſſ. BRADFORDS,

HE manufacture of ſaltpetre has for many months paſt been an object of great attention among the inhabitants of the United Colonies. The neceſſity of manufacturing our own ammunition, and the many advantages that muſt ariſe from producing its chief ingredients among us, has induced many communities and private perſons to make experiments, and publiſh to the colonies their proceſs and ſucceſs. Nothing perhaps has ſo much retarded the growth of this manufacture among families and planters (who have ſo great advantages for carrying it on) as the want of the deſcription of the moſt ſimple and ſucceſsful proceſs: For the benefit, therefore, of thoſe who have a diſpoſition to ſerve themſelves and their oppreſſed country, by making ſaltpetre, the following method is again publiſhed, and offers itſelf to the attention and practice of all Americans with the ſtrongeſt of all recommendation, *indiſputable ſucceſs*. Many perſons had laboured in vain to extract ſaltpetre from thoſe earths, which all deſcription determined to be impregnated with it, and others produced it in ſuch ſmall quantities as to diſcourage their proceeding; but it is inconteſtibly evident, that immediately after the publication of the following method, that great numbers, by practiſing it, produced ſaltpetre from the ſame kind of earth from which before they could extract none. Large quantities in many of the towns of New England have been made during the froſts of the winter, from ſuch earth as they could collect in that ſeaſon. Public works are erected, and private families in great numbers find ſucceſs from this ſimple method. It is hoped, therefore, that all who have conveniency will immediately ſet about it, and communicate the knowledge of this method to thoſe who otherwiſe would not be informed of it. The whole method, as drawn up by the author, is publiſhed for the ſatisfaction of the judicious, but it may eaſily be abridged for the benefit of thoſe who will not inquire into the reaſon of it. The publiſher hereof hath no predilection to this method from any other motive than the very great and unfailing ſucceſs that has attended it. If any perſon has diſcovered a method more ſimple, ſucceſsful, or profitable, their love to the American cauſe will induce them to communicate it. To ſuppoſe the above method will admit of no improvements, would be inconſiſtent with the deſign of the publication. If the principle upon which it is founded be the true one, there may be many better methods of applying it. It is only wiſhed that this method may be uſed till experiment (that touchſtone of natural philoſophy) has aſcertained a better one.

"The committee for propagating the manufacturing of ſaltpetre, in the colony of Maſſachuſetts Bay, having been ſo happy as to diſcover an eaſy, ſimple, and ſucceſsful method of making that article with earth from under old buildings, are ſufficiently warranted (from their own experience) to recommend the following proceſs as eaſy and infallible.

"The ſubſcriber has himſelf aſſiſted in making fifty weight of good ſaltpetre in five days by this method, and that from forty buſhels of earth only, taken from under one old houſe; and I know of no perſon who has tried the following method, but what have had nearly the ſame ſucceſs; and whoever tries the experiment will meet with ſucceſs greatly to his ſatisfaction, provided his earth be good. For that purpoſe take earth from under any old building (whether meeting-houſe, dwelling-houſe, barn, ſtable, or other building) where the earth has been long covered from the weather; dig not above ſix or eight inches deep, and a little experience will teach you to chooſe that which is looſe, light, and crumbly, and has a bitteriſh or ſouriſh allum-like taſte upon the tongue; light ſandy or loomy earth, ſuch as water eaſily penetrates, works the kindeſt. Fill your leech tubs with thoſe earths, obſerving to run all your liquor through three leeches, one after another, before you bail it, pouring water on the ſecond and third leeches, until all the nitre is extracted, which you muſt judge of by the taſte. When you have collected a ſufficient quantity of this liquor for boiling, you muſt alſo have in readineſs a quantity of common lie drawn from aſhes, of the ſtrength of about five gallons of lie drawn from a buſhel of aſhes; mix theſe two liquors together (in a proper veſſel) in the proportion of three parts of the former to one of the latter, and you will immediately perceive a turbidneſs to ariſe, and the liquor to look like new beer; let it ſtand quiet a few hours, and an earthern ſediment will ſettle to the bottom, leaving the liquor clear; remove this liquor (carefully from the ſediment) into your kettle, either by drawing it off at a tap three or four inches from the bottom of your ſettling tub, or by carefully dipping it off as you pleaſe; boil down this liquor until you find (by ſetting a little in a cool place) it ſhoots pretty full of chryſtals, then dip it out into a tub, let it ſtand one or two hours to ſettle, then pour it off into wooden trays previouſly wet with cold water, and ſet them in a cool place, and in 24 hours you may pour off the liquor from the chryſtals; the liquor you pour off (called the mother of ſaltpetre) you may either boil down again until it will chryſtalize, or (which is leſs trouble) you may mix it with your next liquor while it is ſettling. If you have a mind for a large crop from one boiling, you may continue to fill the kettle you intend to boil off in with hot liquor from your other kettle, and that with cold liquor from your ſettling tub until you think proper to bail off, obſerving all other directions as above, except you obſerve the liquor to look of a darkiſh colour; in that caſe dip it out into your ſettling tub, and after a proper time pour it off from the ſediments into your kettle, and boil it down and chryſtalize as above. It was in this way that I made fifty weight in five days. If you carefully obſerve the foregoing directions, your firſt chryſtals will be ſo clean, that (for further clarifying) they will need only to be put into a clean kettle; cover them about two inches with pure water; raiſe the heat until they are diſſolved; remove them from the fire; let them ſtand about fifteen minutes to ſettle; pour it again into your coolers, and ſet it aſide; when it will again ſhoot into chryſtals. The liquor you pour off you may boil down and chryſtalize again and again, until all the water is evaporated. This method of clarifying ſaltpetre is very eaſy; and if you find once doing it not ſufficient to render your ſaltpetre pure, you may repeat it as often as you pleaſe, and your ſaltpetre will loſe nothing but its filth; and I think this method preferable to that hazardous one of fluxing the ſaltpetre with a vehement fire.

"I have met with ſeveral Gentlemen who object to the foregoing method, on account of the large proportion of alkaline lie made uſe of. Suppoſing that the ſaltpetre, thus produced, may contain ſo much of the alkaline ſalt as to render it unfit for the important purpoſe for which it is deſigned: Therefore, leſt this opinion ſhould ſo far prevail as to prevent people from entering fully into the practice of this ſucceſsful method, let it be obſerved, that nitre (properly ſo called) is a ſpiritnous fluid matter, and will never become ſolid until it is fixed to, and blended with, ſome other ſubſtance, which muſt ſerve it as a baſis, and becomes the cauſe of its ſolidity; and when it is imbibed by the above earths, it adheres to and becomes intimately blended with certain articles, which is called its terrene baſis; and the only ſecret in making ſalpetre (from theſe earths) conſiſts in ſeparating from the nitre this terrene baſis, and in furniſhing it with a vegetable alkaline baſis; and thus is formed that neutral ſalt called ſaltpetre. This ſeparation and addition is performed by mixing the two lies as above mentioned, upon which mixing, the nitre (having a greater fondneſs for the alkaline ſalts than for its former earthy baſis) inſtantaneouſly forſakes its terrene baſis, and unites with the alkaline ſalts, and this earthy matter (being thus forſaken of the nitre) ſubſides to the bottom of the veſſel, in form of a light earthy ſubſtance; and when this ſeparation is thus performed, there is nothing more needful but to concentrate the nitre, by evaporating the water to a proper degree, and (without the leaſt difficulty) the whole of the nitre will ſhoot into ſaltpetre chryſtals, provided the lie had ſufficiently furniſhed it with an alkaline baſis; for it is abſolutely certain that the nitre will forſake its terrene baſis, and form into ſaltpetre as far as it finds this alkaline baſis to form upon, and no further; and the want of a ſufficient quantity of theſe alkaline ſalts has been the ſole reaſon why great numbers of perſons have either not been able to reduce their liquor to chryſtals at all, or elſe their chryſtals have been ſmall in quantity, and very foul. Therefore, ſhould your nitre be very ſtrong, you may add one third aſh lie inſtead, of one quarter. Should the proportion be a little overplus, it will not in the leaſt injure your ſaltpetre. W. WHITING, chairman of the ſaltpetre committee."

It is evident that the above method relates only to the extracting ſaltpetre from earth already impregnated; but as that may ſoon be worked up, it is neceſſary to ſearch out, and put in practice, the beſt methods of making compoſitions of materials the beſt adapted to produce ſaltpetre, which, by being properly placed and managed, may be much ſooner fit to yield ſaltpetre than the common earth we find under buildings; this not being in its nature the beſt adapted, nor the beſt ſituated, to collect ſaltpetre, may be a long time before it is ſufficiently impregnated. The method univerſally recommended ſeems to be this, *viz.* Take good earth (the earth from which ſaltpetre has been extracted is ſaid to be beſt) dirt from under ſtables in which dung and urine is mixed, and from under hogſties, dung of fowls, all kind of herbs and weeds, eſpecially the bitter ones, tobacco traſh, and any thing that is putreſcible, rubbiſh of old buildings, ſweepings of ſtreets, a proportion of aſhes and lime; theſe, or ſuch of them as can be conveniently got. Let them be worked up together, and moiſtened well with urine of any ſort, or with water if that cannot be got. Let this compoſt be laid looſe in a bed under a ſhed, or in ſome place that is defended from the rain, but expoſed to a free current of air, and once in a month let it be worked over, and always kept moiſt with urine or water. This, in a few months, will be rich of ſaltpetre; but it may be well to try ſome of it before you determine to work up the whole. The putreſcible matter muſt be well rotted before it will produce the leaſt effects; and this compoſt, after the ſaltpetre is extracted from it, with a ſmall addition of lime and aſhes, is more ſuitable to collect ſaltpetre again than any new compoſt. In ſome places they make the above ingredients into walls or fences, wide enough at bottom to ſtand, and tapering to 4 or 5 inches on the top, and about 5 feet high, and placed along in rows at a convenient diſtance to paſs between. This method is preferred by ſome, as a greater ſurface is expoſed to the air, and they do not take ſo much room as if the ſame matter was laid in beds; but the top of the wall ſhould be covered with a board, or a ſtraw mat, to prevent the heavy rains from waſhing them; and the ſurface of them ſhould be made as looſe as may be, to give admiſſion to the air, and ſhould be wet frequently with urine or water. When theſe walls are found to be ſufficiently impregnated (which is ſuppoſed to be in 5 or 6 months) the ſaltpetre is to be extracted as from other earth, either by taking down the whole of the wall, or by ſcraping off the thickneſs of an inch from the ſurfaces of them, and working that up and leaving the remainder of the wall, to be further impregnated. Experience will ſhew which is beſt, as it alſo may lead the careful obſerver to many conveniencies in making this valuable and neceſſary article, which as yet are not known.

To the people of PENNSYLVANIA.

LETTER V.

IN my fourth letter ſome notice was taken of the dangerous propoſition held up to us by the author of *Common Senſe*, for having recourſe to foreign aſſiſtance, and mixing the virtuous cauſe of theſe colonies with the ambitious views of France and Spain, even allowing that they are either able, or that we could make it their intereſt, to enter into a war with Great Britain and her allies, on our account. Hiſtory will ſcarce give us an example of any people that ever recurred to an expedient of this kind without having their *allies* at laſt for their MASTERS. The fatal conſequences of haſty reſolutions, in great queſtions, might be well illuſtrated by the conduct of the fooliſh *Danes*; who, to avenge themſelves of their nobility, in one dreadful moment, made an irretrievable ſurrender of their own liberty, and that of their poſterity, into the hands of a tyrant. And, had I been diſpoſed to work upon the paſſions, rather than addreſs the reaſon of my readers, the mention which was made in my laſt, of the arbitrary governments of France and Spain, their bloody maſſacres and unrelenting perſecutions, gave me an opportunity of entering into deſcriptions which would have "harrowed up the very ſouls" of *Proteſtants and freemen!*

The Adminiſtration of Great Britain itſelf, daring as they ſeem to be, have not yet dared to recur to the deſperate meaſure of calling in foreign aid. But ſome of our beſt friends intimate that an example of this kind, on either ſide, would juſtify the like conduct on the other. A great majority of the patriotic freeholders of the county of Berks, in England, nobly ſupporting our cauſe before the throne, compliment us upon this, that we have not thrown ourſelves into the arms of other powers, and that "our petitions have *yet* appeared before no throne but that "of Britain. Let not England (ſay they) ſet an example, "which is but too eaſily copied, by drawing into a free country "the inſidious and mercenary aid of foreign forces, trained to "the ſupport of barbarous deſpotiſm. The moment that a great "army of ſuch, or of *any foreigners*, muſt enter your *territories*, "the liberties of your people are at an end. Strenuous as we are "for the honour of our country, we cannot be forgetful of its "peace and concord. It is therefore we abhor the idea of en"couraging foreigners to make a prey of this nation and its *de*"*pendencies*, under the miſerable and uncovered pretext of diſ"countenancing faction and ſedition among ourſelves".

It is but too reaſonable, then, to conclude, that whichſoever ſide (Great Britain or America) ſhall firſt call in foreign aſſiſtance, will but force the other into the ſame deſperate meaſure. In either caſe this devoted land would become one field of blood and carnage for a length of years; which, at laſt, it is to be apprehended, would only be dreadfully cloſed in our perpetual ſubjection and ſlavery to the victorious ſide, whether allies or foes! It is, indeed, impoſſible to deſcribe the miſeries of that country which is once made the ſeat of foreign wars. Torn in pieces by contending armies, ſubjected to the alternate ravages and oppreſſions of rival powers, the merchant, the farmer, the peaſant has nothing to call his own. Even the wife of his boſom, and the daughter of his affection, are not ſafe from the unholy violence of mercenary ſoldiery, rioting through every corner of a land not their own, inſolent in victory, and barbarous in defeat.

Although we now gladly bleed under the cruel hand of an unjuſt Adminiſtration, who have kindled up a moſt unnatural war among brethren in their own land, yet (God be thanked) that war hath not reached, and I truſt will never be able to reach, much further than our ſea ſhores. A nation cannot long continue totally blind to all its moſt eſſential intereſts. Our own vigor and virtue have already gone a great way to convince our oppreſſors of the inanity, as well as impracticability, of their ſchemes to govern a great and diſtant country by force. Perſeverance on our ſide will ſpeedily accompliſh the reſt. Our friends in Britain, unbought by us, and uncorrupted by our foes, are yet of more worth to us than whole nations of foreigners, drawn in to our aſſiſtance by mercenary or intereſted views. If, by no precipitate or unneceſſary meaſures, we forfeit the eſteem of the former, and make them alſo enemies, we ſhall prevail by our united ſtrength. The devices of thoſe, who, for ambitious purpoſes, ſtrive to divide a houſe againſt itſelf, will be finally confounded, and the whole family of Britons, on both ſides of the Atlantic, may yet be bound together, by freſh ties of mutual love and intereſt, for many generations!

But, I repeat it once more; by the former meaſure of calling in foreigners to decide our quarrels, we ſhall bleed, not in a few parts only, but at every pore; and the preſent generation will not probably ſee the end of the conteſt. Would to Heaven, that they who preſs ſuch a meaſure, as being preferable to reconciliation with our ancient friends, upon whatever terms, could but behold the face of *Poland*, and viſit the ſcenes of havoc and deſolation which mark the late footſteps of contending foreign powers in that country; or read the accounts of the like ſcenes in many parts of Germany! They would not then continue to urge ſuch a meaſure, till they could clearly prove that the laſt neceſſity was come.

Let it not be ſaid that I am here drawing a horrible picture to frighten this country into an abſolute ſubmiſſion to Great Britain. No, I perſevere in my belief, that on our preſent plan of reſiſtance, Britain can never force us either into ſubmiſſion or reconciliation, but upon ſuch terms as the united wiſdom of the colonies ſhall deem ſafe and honourable. But upon the other plan, it is much to be feared, that ſubmiſſion as well as ruin might be our lot; and were I diſpoſed to give bad names to any perſons, who may perhaps be honeſtly inquiring after our true intereſt in this conteſt, they who adviſe ſuch a plan, and not Cato, might be called *inimical* to theſe colonies. Nor let it be ſaid, that the wiſhed for aſſiſtance, is not that of armies, but of fleets for trade, and commercial protection. Even ſuppoſing that to be the caſe, will the fleets of any power, who can look thoſe of Britain in the face, be content juſt to take a peep at our fruitful ſhores, give us their protection when called upon, and then return quietly home? But the author of Common Senſe (and it is him I am now anſwering) makes no ſuch diſtinction; and ſpeaks of the "aſſiſ-

tance of *France* and *Spain*" generally, and that for the purposes of a total separation from Great Britain. His words are these:

"It is unreasonable to suppose that France or Spain will give "us any *kind of assistance*, if we mean only to make use of that "assistance for the purpose of *repairing* the breach, and strengthening the connection between Britain and America." That the assistance here meant, is not confined to mere naval assistance, in the idea of some, who are great advocates for this author's pamphlet, might have been easily gathered from their expressions, when we received the late accounts of the arrival of unusual numbers of troops in the neighbouring French West Indies.

But this only alarmed others the more; and I am well persuaded that this writer's idea is not yet adopted by many persons of much consideration in this country, much less by any public bodies. I consider it only as thrown out to collect the sentiments of America upon it, although I cannot but think it a dangerous as well as unseasonable question at this time, and could have been content that it had not been brought before the public. But since it hath been made a question, it ought now to be fairly discussed, for whatever we have left, worthy of our attention as freemen, is all involved in this stake; and when important questions are put upon the footing, that if they are not answered, they are to be taken for granted, it becomes absolutely necessary to examine them.

For my part, the more I consider the matter (and I have long considered it impartially) the more I am persuaded that our political salvation can only be worked out by our own united virtue, and upon our own foundation. When it shall clearly appear that we can no longer stand upon this ground; when we shall be generally convinced, by better arguments than declamation, and the abuse of things venerable and ancient, that future connection with Great Britain, is neither possible nor safe; then we shall be fully *united* and prepared, at every risk, to pursue whatever measures the sense of the community, fairly collected, shall think necessary to adopt. But even then, before we launch forth, many domestic concerns are to be adjusted.

Under what form of government are we to confederate? How much of our ancient constitution is to be preserved? Who is to settle our clashing territorial claims? In what cases are the jurisdiction and expences of these colonies to be joint or separate? On what terms are we to engage foreign alliances, and yet to secure our liberties in connection with them? Are the colonies to vote equally in determining these grand concerns; or is a new representation to be formed, in proportion to numbers and consequence?

I might propose more questions of this kind, and when the necessity comes they will rise thick enough upon us, and we must then encounter them all, for the sake of AMERICAN LIBERTY, which I never would desert, but with my life. But I am sure the author of Common Sense, who labours to prove that the *necessity is already come*, offers nothing on this head, that can give much satisfaction to the public in general. Trusting, however, that in the preceding part of his work, he has levelled the English constitution to the dust, together with all our American constitutions, which are formed on similar models, and that he has thereby *led us past the rubicon*, he may flatter himself that he will the more readily follow his future direction, and adopt what plans he may offer. But I choose to examine for myself, and having despatched his main argument for *independence*, which he founds on the necessity of foreign assistance, I proceed to consider some others parts of his work.

His first sections on the origin of government and monarchy appear to be the strangest medley of inconsistencies and contradictions, which were perhaps ever offered to the *Common Sense* of any people, and calculated only to mislead those superficial readers who are content to believe as they go, without comparing one part of a writer's doctrine with another.

"Society (says he) is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness "*positively*, by uniting our affections; the latter *negatively*, by "*restraining* our vices. Government, like dress, is the badge "of lost innocence; the palaces of *Kings* are built on on the ruins of the bowers of Paradise."

If the author meant only by this to tell us, that if all men were perfectly virtuous, and followed the pure dictates of right reason, human government would have been unnecessary, then I could subscribe to his doctrine, and might have paid him a compliment for clothing an old truth in a spruce metaphor. But if he meant to prove that *monarchies* were any more founded on the ruins of Paradise than republics, he ought in consistency with himself, to have shewn us, that after Adam was expelled from Paradise, he and his descendents, as soon as they were "four or "five" strong, and "able to raise a tolerable dwelling in the wilderness," were found erecting some sort of palace for him as their King; and that, after this example, all future governments were *Kingly*, in the first ages. But our author shews us no such thing. On the contrary, when he speaks of the manner of "peopling the "world," and frames a government out of the state of nature, the first idea he presents us with is that of a pure republic.

"Some convenient tree (says he) affords a *State House*, un"der the branches of which the WHOLE COLONY may assemble "to deliberate on public matters." They proceed, as their numbers increase, to improve this constitution, and devise checks, that, "the *elected* may not form to themselves an interest separate "from the *electors*." On these checks ("not on the unmeaning "name *King*) depends the *strength of government and happiness "of the governed*."

How can this be reconciled to what follows? The author has told us that all government, "being at best but a necessary evil, promotes happiness only negatively, by *restraining* (viz. checking) "our vices;" and in erecting his early republic, he contrives his checks accordingly; but *(risum teneatis!)* directly forgets himself, and says that no "power *which needs checking* can be from God." Thus, by his own argument, God has as little to do with the powers of government in the *republican* as *mixt* forms. But further, least his readers should also forget themselves, and be carried away by his first assertion, that "the palaces of Kings were built on the ruins of Paradise;" he takes care to tell us, and backs it with the authority of "scripture, chronology; that in the early ages of the world there were no Kings;" that the devil himself, in those ancient times, was but a dull fellow; and that, although "government by Kings was his most prosperous invention for the promotion of idolatry," he was a long while in hammering it out; which is but a poor compliment to Satan's cunning! For being a King himself from the beginning, he might have hit upon it sooner. But I leave our author to make his own apology to his infernal Majesty, if he be of his councils; for I have no business to interfere between them.

It is sufficent to shew what use he makes of his *common sense*, at the very outset, in refuting his own first doctrine, and proving to demonstration, that instead of *palaces for Kings*, *State Houses* for WHOLE COLONIES were built on the ruins of Paradise; nay more, that these ruins, in the case of the Jews, were near three thousand years tossed up and down into various forms, before they were converted into *royal edifices!* That I have not misrepresented our author in this argument, his own words will shew. "Near three thousand years passed away, from the Mosaic account of the creation, till the Jews, under a national delusion, requested a King. Till then their form of government (except in extraordinary cases, where the Almighty interposed) was a *kind of republic*, &c.

He proceeds, in the next place, to persuade us that he is as well acquainted with the secrets of *Heaven* as the devices of *Hell*, concerning the origin of Kingly governments; and that the Almighty consented at last to this "most prosperous invention of Satan," in mere wrath and vengeance against the Jews, as a greater punishment for their ingratitude, than could have been inflicted upon them by any other human form of government. There never was a greater perversion of scripture than our author has been guilty of in his endeavours to establish this part of his argument, as every man of common understanding, who has his bible in his hand, may easily perceive.

The bounds prescribed for this letter will not suffer me, at present, to point out his misrepresentations, and to shew how he sets himself up, not only against the plain letter of scripture, but the universal sense of wise and holy men of every age. It is not consistent with my principles to say one word in favour of the divine right of Kings; nor do I believe a word of what others have said in its favour. As little do I believe what has been said concerning the divine right of republics, or any other human forms of government. But the question is, whether God hath particularly reprobated any of them? For my part, as the author has set me the example of examining scripture on this head, I cannot find any modern Kings particularly rejected by Heaven, but MOUNSEIR the KING OF FRANCE. It is in the 35th chapter of Ezekiel; and I am sure our author, who is deeply versed in scripture, could not have overlooked it, if it had not been for the treaty he proposes with this King. The reader will readily allow that the application is much more natural than that which he has made of the 8th chapter of the first book of Samuel.

Son of man, set thy face against MOUNTSEIR [Heb. MOUNSEIR, *or* MONSIEUR] *and prophesy against it* [Heb. *Him*] *and say unto him, thus saith the Lord God: Behold O* Mountseir [*or* Mounsier] *I am against thee, because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel* [that is the French Protestants] *by the force of the sword. Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord God, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood shall pursue thee: Sith thou hast not hated blood, even blood shall pursue thee. Thus will I make* MOUNTSEIR [*or* MONSIEUR] *most desolate*, because *thou hast said these* TWO *nations, and these* TWO *countries* [here Britain and America are clearly pointed out] *shall be mine, and we will possess it—whereas the Lord was there*—as much as to say, you shall not have these two countries *Monsieur!* the Lord intends them for his own use;—they shall be *free Protestant* countries.]

The reader may peruse and apply the remainder of the chapter, which he may do as well as the author of *Common Sense*; and, some may say, perhaps as well as

CATO.

To Messs. DIXON & HUNTER.

IN my last I endeavoured to shew, that a *constitutional independence*, founded on the ancient charters and original contracts of the colonies, and warranted by the laws of nature, ought to have been the object of our wishes from the beginning of the dispute: I mean such an independence as would have given us a *total exemption from parliamentary government*, under the allegiance of the Crown of England. I will now proceed to shew why we ought still to have in view this great object of a *constitutional independence*, and that the *necessity* of a *total separation* from Britain does not yet arise.

Those who cry out incessantly for an immediate subversion of our ancient political system would do well to consider the subject in all it's points of view, and look forward into the probable consequences. They will find, from a thorough knowledge of the history of mankind, that the British constitution, when conducted on its *pure and true principles*, is the most perfect form of government which ever yet has been invented by the wit of man. Every writer on politics agrees in this point, all nations acknowledge the truth of the assertion. This beautiful system of legislation, which so equally tempers and combines the different forms of democracy, aristocracy, and monarchy, secures a sufficient degree of liberty to the people, while it curbs the ambitious strides of their rulers. It is free from those numerous evils which arise out of either of the other forms, and ought for ever to be the object of a wise people. We should remember, that the primary object of the dispute was a *restoration of this constitution*; and, when reduced to the dire necessity of taking up arms in defence of our invaded rights, it is our duty to avoid sullying so fair a cause by an unjustifiable subversion of the whole system, with the determined purpose of never sheathing the sword till we have recovered our rights. We should deem the *re-establishment of our original, our constitutional independency, a sufficient fruit of our victory*. Let us revolve in our minds all the benefits which we have derived from our original country: She hath ever been to us an outwork of defence against the ambitious and potent nations of Europe. She hath served us as a guide and a governor, to prevent and to heal those civil dissentions which mutual jealousy and emulation are too apt to excite in colonies growing up in each other's neighbourhood. To the influence of her excellent constitution we are indebted for that peace and prosperity which we have formerly enjoyed; and while we continue to live in the full possession of our rights, under the gentle rule of the Crown of England, we must go on progressively in that boundless career (of which there is no other instance in history) until the *seat of empire shall be transferred from Britain to America*.

Such is the prospect on one side. Let us now see what the opposite view will present us. A public *declaration of absolute independence* will exclude us for ever from terms with Great Britain, and either create us a perpetual enemy, who will have it in her power to check our prosperity, or reduce us to the most abject state of slavery. The events of war are uncertain; and, however much we may be elated with our present successes, every wise politician will keep within his own grasp the means of promoting a continuance of success, or of securing the best terms on a reverse of fortune. The people of England have manifested an early inclination to do us justice, while we contend for our constitutional liberties, and the Ministry have found it difficult to recruit their armies; but the moment a declaration of independency comes out every man in England will become our enemy. Numbers in America too, who have been foremost in their opposition to unconstitutional oppressions, will conscientiously stand forth against the idea of innovation. Already the evil has begun. Pennsylvania and the Jersies have declared for a *constitutional connexion*, the two Carolinas for a *total separation*. What the event will be let those reflect who have thrown the deadly cause of disunion among us. Why say any thing about it? If we are victorious, we shall have it in our power to command our own terms; but if the battle goes against us, what terms can we then expect, or where can the evil end?

I will venture to go further. Were we this moment triumphant in all the success of victory, I should still think it for the interest and happiness of America to enjoy the benefits and advantage of a free trade, and a constitutional independence, under the allegiance of the British Crown. A system of *absolute independence* would burst asunder the bands of religion, of *oaths*, of laws, of language, of *blood*, of interest, of commerce; of all those habitudes, in fine, which hold us united among ourselves, under the influence of the common parent. Who sees not that such a rending to pieces must reach the entrails, the heart, the very life of the colonies? Should they have the good fortune to escape the fatal extremity of civil wars, will it be an easy matter for them to agree on a new form of government? Is it probable that they will establish a form on the same salutary principles as the old one; or is it practicable? If they should incline to do so, who among us has pretensions to the *throne*? But if (as is most probable) democracies, or aristocracies, should be the mode, who does not feel himself a considerable loser by the change? Was every colony to become a distinct and separate state, what endless divisions among them! Should such a number of little commonwealths, where the diversity of laws, the inequality of riches, the variety of possessions, must sow in secret the seeds of opposition in interests, be disposed to form a confederated union, how adjust the rank which each should hold in it, and the influence which each should possess, in proportion to their respective risks and importance? Jealousy, and a hundred other passions, which so early divided the wise states of Greece would spread discord through a multitude of colonies, rather associated by resentment and indignation against Britain, which are but transitory and galling ties, than by the sober and well-weighed principles of a natural and permanent union. Their *confederacy* will continue no longer than the necessity of opposing the common enemy. When that necessity ceases, the turbulent spirit of conquest will break loose; the strong will over-run the weak, and they will mourn for the peaceful influence of the parent country. All these considerations seem to evince that an eternal divorce from Britain would be a great and grievous misfortune to these colonies.

But (say the friends of innovation) it is both unnatural and inconvenient for the Sovereign of America to reside at three thousand miles distance. This I look on to be one of our greatest blessings. A King at a distance can never have that personal influence which we find to be the cause of every subversion of the rights of the people; and although some inconveniencies may arise from his distant situation, the good by far overbalances the evil. Others have asked, how can we again be reconciled to a people who hath declared us rebels; or acknowledge allegiance to a King who has violated the rights of the subject, and broke through the barriers of the constitution? I answer, that I care but little for their declarations, for as long as we have the power of retaliation in our hands, they will not dare to treat us as rebels; and although I detest the principles of George III. and shall think it my duty at all times to oppose his unjust encroachments, yet I mean to preserve the constitution by restraining the King. All men are intoxicated with power, and it is the duty of the people to watch over those who must of necessity be infested with supreme command. The same caution holds good in monarchies, aristocracies, and republics. But I am told your scheme is merely visionary. The people of England will never agree to such a reconciliation as renders the Crown independent of Parliament. Let us beat them into compliance; they will be glad to receive us on these terms, rather than lose us altogether. And while we acknowledge allegiance to the Crown of England, let us assert our natural, our constitutional rights to a free government, and oppose an invincible resistance to every shadow of parliamentary supremacy over these colonies.

With much more shew of reason, it is alleged, that necessity, and our common safety, call out aloud upon us to separate for ever. The advocates for this doctrine tell us, that as long as we continue under the allegiance of the Crown of England the nations of Europe will not lend us any assistance. And have we then so bad an opinion of our own strength as in despair to call in the assistance of foreigners? No (say they) but surely an alliance with foreigners will be an advantage to us, by enabling them to supply us with the necessaries for carrying on the war; that on a declaration of independence, and not before, our seas and rivers will be crowded with French and Spaniards, a ready market will be had for our produce, and gold and silver will pour in apace. Alas! I fear it will prove but a golden dream, out of which we shall awake restless, dissatisfied, and in despair. The very reverse appears to me to be the most probable. While Britain remains Mistress of the Seas, and blocks up every inlet into our country, how are the French and Spaniards to get in amongst us? Have we not seen her an over-match for France and Spain united? And while she continues in alliance with Russia and Holland, is it not probable that she will beat the rest of the united world on that element? But I will suppose France and Spain able to lend effectual assistance to America; yet I affirm that it is neither their interest to give it, nor our interest to accept of it, with a view to absolute independenty. Cut the knot which ties old England to the new, and soon would the northern colonies alone possess more force than they now have united with Britain. This vast continent, let loose from every connexion in Europe, would enjoy the liberty, the command of all her own movements. It would then become a measure of equal importance and facility for her to seize those lands whose treasures might supply what the mediocrity of her own productions denies her. Her independent position would enable her to complete the preparations for invasion before the rumour of them could reach the European climates. She might choose her enemy, the field, and the moment of her victories. Her thunder would always discharge itself on coasts where it was least expected, on seas but feebly guarded by distant states. Those countries, for the defence of which forces were sent over, would be conquered before they could be succoured. They could neither be recovered by treaty, without great sacrifices, nor prevented from falling again under that yoke from which an enfeebled hand had delivered them. The colonies of these states would hasten to acknowledge a master who would offer them no conditions so vexatious as that of their own government; or else, animated by the example of the English provinces, they would break the chain which fastens them so shamefully to Europe. Sound policy then will prevent the rival nations of England from precipitating, by their secret councils, by clandestine succours, or by open assistance, the total independence of America, which can only deliver them from a neighbouring rival, by giving them a conqueror at a distance. I will go further, and assert, however paradoxical it may appear, that although the other nations of Europe will not assist in bringing about a total separation, it will be their true interest to join the Americans in that constitutional independence which gives them *a free trade under the allegiance of the Crown of England*. England, it is true, derives the influence she is mistress of, especially in the new world, from the extent and population of her northern colonies. It is they who put it in her power to attack at all times, with advantage, the isles and the continent of other nations, to conquer their lands, and to ruin their commerce. But let it be considered, that this Crown hath, in the other quarters of the globe, interests which may run counter to her progress in America, which may hamper or retard her enterprizes there, which may annihilate her conquests by the necessity of restitutions. France and Spain have nothing more to gain from a total separation of the colonies, but what they will receive from their independent trade under the Crown of England. They have a great deal more to lose. This reasoning, it is said, may hold good with respect to Spain, but the French territories in America are so insignificant that an extensive commerce with the continent, and the prospect of a powerful fleet, will vastly overbalance the other considerations. And can we be serious in our wishes to aggrandize the power of France? That nation who lately aspired at universal empire, and only wanted a fleet to carry her scheme into execution. Shall we be such short-sighted politicians as to furnish her with that fleet? Soon would she give laws to the whole American continent. Or suppose the power of France should be only an equal match for Britain, what shall we gain by the conflict? A diversion of the British forces perhaps in our favour. But is it not more probable that the contending powers, being wearied with their mutual losses, would join to divide the colonies between them? Thus every great and powerful motive combines to mark the line of American politics—*the rights of a free trade under the Crown of England, and the power of grant-*

ing supplies, as the free gift of the people, until, in the fullneſs of time, the ſeat of empire ſhall be tranſferred from Britain to America.

HAMPDEN.

Meſſ. DIXON & HUNTER.

GENTLEMEN,

IN times of diſtraction and trouble, it may naturally be expected that the prints will be filled with advice to the multitude how to act in a ſituation ſo dangerous and difficult. At ſuch a ſeaſon, to miſlead the unwary, or miſinform the ignorant, ought to be regarded as the higheſt crime. During ſome months your papers have teemed with exhortations to independence, war, defiance, free trade, and foreign alliances. It appears, the writers were often too ſanguine, and that they more frequently proceeded on miſtaken principles; yet I bore all with ſome degree of patience, till I lately met with a piece ſigned a *Planter*. This writer promiſes ſuch exorbitant gain from a free trade as might readily engage the people to aim at it by every means in their power, and to ſcorn an accommodation with Great Britain, as the higheſt injuſtice and oppreſſion. It is neceſſary they ſhould be undeceived, and I ſhall endeavour briefly to do it. The firſt aſſertion in which the Planter ſeems wrong is this; that the Britiſh merchants have it in their power to impoſe what prices they pleaſe on their own commodities and ours. This is in ſome meaſure the caſe, but it may eaſily be ſhewn that we cannot be much injured by it. The trade from Britain to America is general, and not confined to any particular claſs or company. Where extravagant profits are expected, numbers will naturally engage in the ſame purſuit, and the rivalſhip natural to all men employed in one buſineſs will induce every merchant, or company of merchants, to go a ſtep beyond their opponents, in favour of thoſe with whom they deal; and by theſe means the price of commodities on both ſides muſt ſoon be fixed at ſuch a rate as will afford a moderate advantage to both. I am confident the Virginia trade, during many years, has been conducted in a manner which can raiſe no reaſonable complaint againſt the merchants ſettled amongſt us. We have been chiefly hurt by their great expedient to make themſelves popular, allowing long and extenſive credit; and if we do not comply with our engagements, and pay our debts, they are not to blame. What the *Planter* affirms, concerning the price of Britiſh commodities in the northern colonies, is too ridiculous to be liſtened to, and cannot be true. He conſiders it as a mighty evil, that all our merchants are not natives. If we have not induſtry, or ability, to conduct our own commerce, we are certainly obliged to thoſe who will; and we are ſurely not prohibited from being traders for ourſelves, and carrying our commodities where we pleaſe, after touching at England! Beſides, it appears evident that we are not yet prepared for an extenſive commerce. The firſt and moſt natural employment of men, in a new country, is agriculture. Manufactures of any kind are ſeldom carried to any degree of perfection till the number of people exceeds what is neceſſary to cultivate the land. The ſame may be ſaid of all mechanical trades. We always find, whenever a tradeſman can afford to purchaſe a ſpot of ground, he quits his buſineſs, and turns farmer. Whilſt this diſpoſition, ſo natural to all men, continues to prevail among us, we cannot expect that ſuch numbers as the Planter imagines will be employed in ſhip-building, ſail-making, or manufactures of any kind.

The *Planter* next proceeds to reckon all the profits of the Britiſh merchants as ſo much clear loſs to us, becauſe it frequently happens that factors, after having ſaved a competent fortune, remove to England, and there live upon it. We need give ourſelves little concern about this, ſince they do not carry with them our fields, our people, and ſeldom our money. Nor have we any right to complain, for if our trade is productive of ſuch immenſe advantages, we can certainly as well afford to ſend factors to manage it in England as the Engliſh can afford to ſend them here, and it is our own fault if we do not. With a due degree of induſtry and enterpriſe, we might, by theſe means, reap all the profits which now fall to their ſhare, if we did not think that we could employ ourſelves to more advantage at home.

What the *Planter* affirms concerning the price of our ſtaple in foreign markets is more inſufferable than all his other aſſertions, and fully as void of foundation. He gravely tells us, that tobacco pays a duty of ſeven-pence halfpeny *per* pound when it is landed in England, all clear loſs to us. This affirmation muſt either proceed from wilful miſrepreſentation, or the moſt ſhameful ignorance. Every one, with the leaſt knowledge of trade, knows, that when tobacco is exported from England to other countries, the duty of ſeven-pence halfpeny *per* pound is drawn back. I have converſed with many ſenſible merchants, who could have no intereſt in deceiving me, and was always told that two-pence halfpeny or three-pence *per* pound from the French agents was reckoned an excellent price. Particular circumſtances may ſometimes raiſe it higher, and it very often ſinks lower. It is notorious, that in the year 1772, after many bankruptcies had happened in Britain, the French were with difficulty prevailed on to give two-pence. The caſe is nearly the ſame in exportations to Spain, Portugal, Italy, Holland, and Germany.

The *Planter* ſeems to think we lie under great diſadvantages in the ſale of our wheat and flour. He certainly knows that we have not hitherto been obliged to ſend either directly to England. For the moſt part they have been diſpoſed of in the Weſt Indies, or on the continent of Europe. If our account for ſales ſome years paſt is impartially examined, we ſhall perhaps find that we could not much have mended it by going any where elſe. The *Planter* mentions hemp and flax likewiſe, as articles, from the culture of which we muſt reap an extravagant profit. The management of the firſt is now well underſtood in ſome parts of the colony; and notwithſtanding all the advantages of our ſoil, climate, ſituation, and a bounty (till lately) upon it from England, we never yet could afford to underſell the Ruſſians. How then can we expect to do it in oppoſition to Great Britain, and when we muſt be at the charge of protecting our own trade? The raiſing of flax is in a great meaſure untried, and no good opinion can yet be formed of what may reaſonably be expected from it. It muſt, Gentlemen, appear plain to my countrymen that the Planter is wrong in all his calculations, and what muſt be heavieſt upon us, in caſe of a ſeparation from Britain, he takes not the leaſt notice of. If we declare ourſelves an independent ſtate, the practice of other nations will lay us under a neceſſity of keeping a ſtanding army, and a powerful fleet. It is ridiculous to expect that other powers will undertake to protect us without being paid for it. If we employ them for that purpoſe, we tacitly reſign ourſelves to their direction, and come within their power. How far France and Spain (countries under the moſt deſpotic government in Church and State) may heartily or effectually aid us in our preſent glorious ſtruggle for liberty, let others determine. Such as are well acquainted with human nature, and the maxims of nations, might readily gueſs; and I heartily wiſh we may not truſt them too far. If we muſt ſupport our fleets and armies ourſelves, I am not ſufficiently acquainted with thoſe matters to know what the expence muſt amount to; but I am greatly miſtaken, was a fair calculation to be made on that ſide, if it would not overbalance the profits of commerce fixed by the Planter, admitting they are true. I have no intention, Gentlemen, of entering the liſts as a controverſial writer; I only wiſh to put facts into a true point of view, which have been plainly miſrepreſented. Whether or not it may be neceſſary to break off all connection with Great Britain, muſt ſoon appear from the deliberations of thoſe wiſe and reſpectable Aſſemblies, our Congreſs and Conventions. I ſhould deem it an inſult my offering advice to bodies of ſuch worthy and capable men. I cannot conclude without declaring, that I have felt the utmoſt ſatisfaction in peruſing a late piece in your paper ſigned *Cato*. It is perſpicuous, elegant, and forcible. I wait with impatience to ſee his other letters.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
A VIRGINIAN.

PHILADELPHIA, *April* 15.

IN CONGRESS, *April* 13, 1776.

WHEREAS by the third article of the aſſociation, entered into by the late Continental Congreſs, at Philadelphia, on the 24th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1774, it was agreed that from that day the inhabitants of the United Colonies "would not purchaſe or uſe any tea, imported on account of the Eaſt India Company, or any on which a duty had been or ſhould be paid, and from and after the firſt day of March, then next following, they would not purchaſe or uſe any Eaſt India tea whatever." And whereas it has been repreſented to this Congreſs, that the time as aforeſaid limited, for the conſumption of the tea then on hand, was too ſhort, whereby many zealous friends to the American cauſe, who had imported large quantities of that commodity, with deſign not merely to advance their fortunes, but to counteract the plan then purſued by the Miniſtry and India Company, to introduce and ſell in theſe colonies, tea ſubject to duty, are like to become great ſufferers; the greater part of the eſtates of many of them being veſted in that article; and they by that means rendered incapable, not only of paying their debts and maintaining their families, but alſo of vigorouſly exerting themſelves in the ſervice of their country. And whereas it was originally the deſign of Congreſs, that all India tea, which had been imported agreeable to the tenor of the ſaid aſſociation, might be ſold and conſumed, but the time limited for that purpoſe proving too ſhort, *Reſolved*, that all India tea imported as aforeſaid, expreſsly excepting all teas imported by, or on account of the Eaſt India Company, now remaining on hand in theſe colonies, be ſold and uſed.

And whereas from the future importation of tea being prohibited, ſome tea-holders may be tempted to avail themſelves of the ſcarcity which will be occaſioned by it, and exact exorbitant prices for an article of little real value of itſelf, and which owes its worth to a habit in many reſpects pernicious to the inhabitants of theſe colonies,

Reſolved therefore, that bohea tea ought not to be ſold in the ſmalleſt quantities at a higher price in any colony than at the rate of three fourth parts of a dollar per pound; and other teas at ſuch price as ſhall be regulated by the committees of the town or county, where the tea is ſold; and that all perſons who ſhall either give or take a greater price for it ought to be conſidered as enemies to the American cauſe and treated accordingly: And it is earneſtly recommended to all committees of inſpection and obſervation as well to be vigilant in carrying this Reſolve into execution, as thoſe which prohibit the importation of India tea from any part of the world; it being the deſire of Congreſs to exclude all teas except ſuch as may make part of the cargoes of prizes taken by the ſhips of war or privateers belonging to theſe colonies. *Extract from the minutes*,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

WILLIAMSBURG, *April* 27.

CAPTAIN John Dixon, in a veſſel from Glouceſter, bound to the Weſt Indies, who was lately taken by a man of war, and carried into Antigua, has returned from St Euſtatia, and landed a cargo in this colony conſiſting of four thouſand pounds ſterling worth of linens, ſail duck, &c. The Captain informs, that the Argo ſloop of war had chaſed a veſſel among the iſlands, but was prevented from taking her by a French frigate, who exchanged a few ſhot with the Argo, took the veſſel under convoy, and carried her ſafe into a French iſland.

Thirty eight ſail of the men of war and tranſports diſtined for North Carolina, from England, are ſaid to be arrived at Cape Fear, and that they took on the paſſage a large French ſhip with arms and ammunition.

We have authentic information, that the General Aſſembly of South Carolina have reſolved not to enter into any treaty or correſpondence with the Court of Great Britain, or any perſons under that authority, but through the medium of the Continental Congreſs.

The priſoners lately taken in North Carolina are to be ſent to this colony, Maryland, and Philadelphia; 14 are to come here. Mr. John Goodrich and Mr. George Blair are amongſt them.

We received Mr. WORMELEY's *letter too late to be inſerted this week.*

EDENTON *(North Carolina) April* 12. A moſt unnatural murder was committed laſt Friday, near Roanoke iſland. A ſtranger came to Nixenton about the 1ſt. inſtant, and finding that Capt. George Oaks, late of the town of Marblehead, in New England, intended, in a ſmall boat, to go to Tar river, begged a paſſage with him, which was given. The murderer, whoſe name is Joſeph Evans, late of Salem county, in the province of New Jerſey, before he went off, bought for his horrid purpoſe a carving knife. The villain, the firſt night they were in the boat, whilſt the unhappy man was aſleep, ſtabbed him. The boat being near the ſhore, the lamentations of the Captain were heard by the inhabitants, who ſecured the villain. He has left, for the uſe of his family (a widow and ſeven children) in money and goods, to the amount of about 300l. which is in the hands of the widow Todd of Nixenton, in Paſquotank county.

WATERTOWN, *April* 8. Laſt Wedneſday Capt. Manly took and ſent into Beverly a large brig, after ſome reſiſtance.—This veſſel was purchaſed by a William Jackſon, at the Brazen Head, who, with Crean Bruſh and a number of others, women and children, were on board, beſides a ſerjeant and 12 privates of the 4th or King's own regiment, who are made priſoners. She was bound for Halifax, and has on board a variety of articles.—She is eſtimated to be worth about 35,000l. ſterling.

NEW YORK, *April* 10. "Laſt night General Sullivan arrived here with ſix regiments. On Sunday laſt Admiral Hopkins's fleet fell in with the Glaſgow, a good twenty gun ſhip, the bomb brig that has done ſo much damage at Rhode Iſland and that neighbourhood, and three tenders. The brig commanded by Capt. Hopkins firſt came up with the Glaſgow; they ſoon exchanged the compliments of a broadſide, and continued engaged till the Admiral came up, when the Glaſgow, finding it too hot for her, ran off. The brig followed, but the Admiral being unable to keep up with her, the man of war got off from them.

"While the Admiral and Capt. Hopkins were foul of the Glaſgow, the reſt of the fleet were buſy with the bomb brig, and the three tenders, all of which are taken, and carried into New London, where they had arrived before Gen. Sullivan left it. A Gentleman, from Newport, informs, that on the inhabitants hearing the engagement, they got down ſome eighteen pounders, and began to fire upon Wallace and Ayſcough, on which they weighed and ſtood out of the harbour; at which time the Glaſgow hove in ſight, firing ſignal guns, on which they ſtood out to ſea, and the Glaſgow with them. Where they are gone is not known.

"Our fleet is from New Providence. They have brought from thence ſixty twenty four pounders, a large quantity of ſhot and ſhells, ſome other military ſtores, and ſome Tories. The Aſia is moved down the harbour two or three miles. Our people have taken poſt, the night before laſt, on Governor's Iſland, and on Red Hook, both of which are now ſeized, and all communication with the ſhips and their dearly beloved Governor is cut off, which meaſure gives great umbrage to ſome."

PHILADELPHIA, *April* 11. "This morning arrived a ſloop mounting 6 three pounders, and eight or ten ſwivels, late a tender belonging to the Liverpool man of war, and commanded by a Lieutenant Boucher, of ſaid ſloop, having 35 picked men on board, who on Saturday laſt off the capes of Virginia, fell in with Capt. Barry of the continental brig called the Lexington. A battle enſued, which was continued deſperately for one hour and twenty minutes, when the tender ſtruck. Capt. Barry loſt two men killed, and had four wounded. The other, one man killed, and one wounded."

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman belonging to this province, now in London, Dec. 23.

"It is dangerous to ſay any thing on politics. I can only inform you, that a BLACK CLOUD HANGS OVER AMERICA."

[*For more news ſee the fourth page.*]

TREASURY OFFICE, *April* 26, 1776.

MAJOR *George Lyne*, formerly appointed to ſign the Treaſury Notes of the Denomination of 20*ſ.* 12*ſ.* 6. 10*ſ.* 7*ſ.* 6. and 5*ſ.* being unable, through Sickneſs, to proſecute that Buſineſs, I have, purſuant to the Authority to me given by the General Convention, appointed Col. *John Dixon* to ſign the ſaid Notes. RO. C. NICHOLAS, Treaſurer.

THE following Counties have not hitherto returned Liſts of the Number of their People; and as the Colony may receive Injury from the Want of a Return being ſoon made to Congreſs, it is hoped the Committees will procure the Liſts, to be taken and ſent by the Delegates to the next Convention.

Accomack, Albemarle, Amelia, Auguſta, Bedford, Botetourt, Brunſwick, Buckingham, Berkeley, Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Cheſterfield, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dunmore, Eſſex, Fauquier, Frederick, Fincaſtle, Goochland, Hampſhire, Hanover, Henrico, Iſle of Wight, King & Queen, Loudoun, Louiſa, Lunenburg, Middleſex, Mecklenburg, Nanſemond, Norfolk, Northampton, Orange, Pittſylvania, Prince Edward, Princeſs Anne, Southampton, Stafford, Surry, Suſſex, and Warwick,

EDMUND PENDLETON.

AS an Army without Cavalry is in all Countries a very defective Machine, but in this Province, circumſtanced as it is, it is impoſſible to carry on the Service with any tolerable Degree of Credit, without a certain Proportion of this Species of Troops, General *Lee* begs Leave to addreſs himſelf to the young Gentlemen of the different Counties, entreating that they will form themſelves into Companies of LIGHT DRAGOONS, conſiſting of one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Cornet, two Serjeants, two Corporals, and a Trumpet, or Horn-Sounder. As it is intended, and hoped, that the Whole will be compoſed of Gentlemen Volunteers, it will not be expected that they ſhould receive any Pay; but at the ſame Time, as it is not reaſonable that they ſhould put themſelves to the Expence of maintaining their Horſes, they are to be allowed Rations for them, as well as for themſelves. Their Arms ſhould be a ſhort Rifle Carbine, a light Pike of eight Feet long, and a Tomhawk. General *Lee* is confident, if the young Gentlemen approve, and adopt this Scheme, they will not only do very great Honour to themſelves, but very important Service to their Country.

HALIFAX *(North Carolina) April* 12, 1776.

ALL Perſons indebted to the Eſtate of *Joſeph Montfort*, deceaſed, are deſired to make immediate Payment, or give Bonds for their reſpective Balances. All thoſe who have Demands againſt the ſaid Eſtate are deſired to make them known to 6 HENRY MONTFORT, Executor.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, *April* 16, 1776.

THE Students at the Academy increaſe ſo faſt, that I cannot pretend to furniſh Beds for any conſiderable Number more. Thoſe Gentlemen who ſend their Sons hereafter will do me, and perhaps themſelves, a Favour by ſending Beds with them. It can be no great Trouble to them, if two Gentlemen will agree to ſend their Children together, to furniſh and convey a Bed at their common Expence. I find it will be too chargeable for me to provide this Article at the Rate I have hitherto done, as young Perſons are leſs diſpoſed to be careful of the Property of another than of their own.

PHIL. HOLCOMBE, Steward.

N. B. I will give good Encouragement to a Man who underſtands cooking, and managing the Buſineſs of the Kitchen and Table in ſuch a large Family.

FOR SALE,

SEVEN Hundred and fifty five Acres of LAND in *Buckingham*, lying on both Sides of *Bridle* Creek, which is remarkably good for Tobacco and Hemp, affords good Meadow Ground, and has about 50 Acres cleared, under a good Fence. The Terms may be known by applying to the Subſcriber, about five Miles below the Head of *Appamattox* River.

PETER PATTESON.

STRAYED from the Subſcriber, in *Williamſburg*, about the 10th of *April*, two HORSES, *viz.* a large dark Bay, about 7 Years old, with a hanging Mane and Switch Tail, has had a Fiſtula, the Marks of which are very plain to be ſeen, and ſeemed inclinable to riſe again, as the Place was a little ſwelled on one Side the Shoulder; he is branded on the Buttock *d*. The other is a ſmall Sorrel, 10 or 11 Years old, with a hanging Mane and Switch Tail, has had a Fiſtula ſome Years ago, which is very diſcoverable, is creſt fallen, and branded on the Buttock C, or a Horſe Shoe, but very faint.

(tf) BENJAMIN BUCKTROUT.

STRAYED from the Subſcriber, on *Rappahannock* River, in the upper End of *Caroline*, the 24th of *January*, a BAY HORSE four Years old, about 4 feet 10 Inches high, branded I T, ſhod all-fours, and paces when rode. He was bred in the upper End of *Culpeper* near *Thorn's Gap*. I have been informed ſuch a Horſe was ſeen following a Waggon that was going over the Mountains. Whoever brings me the ſaid Horſe ſhall have forty Shillings Reward.

HANNAH BATTAILE.

April 25, 1776.

STRAYED, or STOLEN, from *Williamſburg*, about three Weeks ago, a DARK BAY MARE about 4 Feet 6 Inches high, branded on the near Buttock I G. She has got a Fiſtula on her Withers, and has a long Mane and Switch Tail. Whoever conveys the ſaid Mare to Mr. *Richard Charleton* in *Williamſburg*, or to my Plantation in *King William*, ſhall be handſomely rewarded by

THOMAS ELLIOTE.

STOLEN, from the Subſcriber, the 7th of *March*, a black HORSE about 4 Feet 10 Inches high, 6 Years old this Spring, paces ſlow, and branded on the off Buttock X. I will give a Reward of 50s. for the Horſe, and 5l. on Conviction of the Thief. (2‖) HENRY HAYES.

CAMBRIDGE, *April* 4.

A FAVOURITE toaſt in the beſt companies is, "May the INDEPENDENT principles of COMMON SENSE be confirmed throughout the United Colonies."

We hear that ten or twelve tranſport veſſels, ſuppoſed to be from England, arrived laſt Thurſday in Nantaſket road, where four or five of the enemy's ſhips of war remain.

NEW YORK, *April* 10.

MONDAY night one thouſand of the continental troops, ſtationed here, went over and took poſſeſſion of Governor's iſland, and began to fortify it; the ſame night a regiment went over to Red-Hook, and fortified that place likewiſe.

On Saturday laſt the continental fleet fell in with the Glaſgow man of war, off Montock Point, at the eaſt end of Long Iſland, when Admiral Hopkins, being the foremoſt ſhip, attacked the Glaſgow, upon which a hot engagement enſued, but before another ſhip could come up, the Glaſgow ſheered off with conſiderable damage. The fleet afterwards took a bomb brig and three tenders, all which they carried ſafe into New London on Sunday morning.

This morning arrived in the harbour, twenty three tranſports, from the eaſtward, having on board the brigade commanded by General Sullivan.

April 11. By a Gentleman who was preſent laſt Lord's day on Staten Iſland, about 9 miles from this city, we are informed, that the rifleмen, who were ſtationed on that iſland to guard it againſt the depredations of the miniſterial robbers on board the King's ſhips in the bay, had received intelligence that the Savage ſloop of war and a tender had come as near the ſhore as they could with ſafety, and had ſent on ſhore two of their boats and a number of men, who had placed a ſentinel with his muſket and colours on an eminence. When our riflemen appeared, the ſentinel fired, ſtruck his colours, and ran for the ſhore with all his ſpeed; in the mean time the ſhip began firing to cover the embarkation of her men, who were all flying to their boats, but our brave riflemen, with unparalelled agility, out-ran them, and notwithſtanding the fire from the ſhip, ſurrounded the men, took ten of them priſoners, and ſecured one of their boats; the other puſhed off with two men in it. One of the riflemen ran after it in the water, but miſſing his graſp, fired and killed one of the men, who fell overboard; the other, lying on his back, rowed to the veſſel. The Savage kept up a continual fire for ſome hours, without the leaſt hurt to any of our men, who lay ſnug behind the rocks, and defied their thunder, and at lucid intervals fired at the ſhip. One man was ſeen to tumble off the quarter deck into the water, whom they took to be an officer. More, it is thought, were killed. In a few hours there was not a man on board the ſhip appeared on deck; the tender ſlipped her cable, the ſhip cut her's, and both fell down with the tide, which proved kinder to them than the riflemen. They left behind them one ſtandard, one muſket, twenty ſeven iron bound caſks, a cable and anchor, a ſpeaking trumpet, watch coats, &c.

PHILADELPHIA, *April* 11.

"In ſight of the capes of Virginia, *April* 7, 1776.

"Gentlemen,

"I HAVE the pleaſure to acquaint you, that at one P. M. this day, I fell in with the ſloop Edward, belonging to the Liverpool friget. She engaged us near two glaſſes. They killed two of our men and wounded two more. We ſhattered her in a terrible manner, as you will ſee. We killed and wounded ſeveral of her crew. I ſhall give you a particular account of the powder and arms taken out of her, as well as my proceedings in general. I have the happineſs to acquaint you that all our officers and men behaved with much courage.

I am, Gentlemen, your humble ſervant,
JOHN BARRY."

To the Hon. John Hancock, Eſq;
or any of the Marine Committee.

General Putnam, commander in chief at New York, has given poſitive orders that the miniſterial fleet there ſhall no longer be ſupplied with proviſions, and that all communication between them and the ſhore be entirely ſtopped.

April 15. From Suſſex county, on Delaware, we learn, that a ſmall ſchooner, the property of Mr. Nehemiah Field, of Lewis town, returning from St. Euſtatia with ſome ſtores, and having information of the Roebuck man of war being in the road, came to anchor a few miles ſouthward of the lighthouſe, and ſent a meſſenger to Lewis, deſiring aſſiſtance to diſcharge the cargo: A company of continental troops (of the Delaware battalion) ſtationed at Lewis, were immediately ordered to march to the aſſiſtance of the ſchooner; in the mean time the ſchooner perceiving the man of war's tender bearing down upon her, endeavoured to get into Indian river, but not effecting it, ſhe run a ſhore near to Mr. Henry Fiſher's pilot boat, which ſome time ſince had been run aſhore by the 3d Lieutenant of the man of war and three hands, who were all taken priſoners. The company having arrived, got behind the veſſels on ſhore, and waited for the tender, which when within 200 yards diſtance fired a broadſide; a hot fire from both ſides enſued, which laſted near two hours, and the tender was finally obliged to ſheer off without having effected her purpoſe, but on the contrary with the loſs of ſeveral men, as many were ſeen to fall. The cargo was ſafely landed from the ſchooner and ſecured, without the loſs of a man, either killed or wounded. The militia officers at Lewis behaved with that courage and magnanimity which does honour to their country.

PEOPLE OF AMERICA.

BRETHREN, COUNTRYMEN, *and* FELLOW FREEMEN,

REMEMBER the words of your illuſtrious and diſintereſted advocate, that great citizen of the world, the BISHOP of ST. ASAPH:

"The endeavours to *ſeparate* the intereſt of the colonies from "that of Great Britain ſhould be received with the indignation "that is due to the artifices of factious men, who wiſh to grow "eminent by the miſfortunes of their country. Even in that fu"ture ſtate of *independency*, which *ſome* among them ignorantly "wiſh for, but which for their true intereſt can never be too long "delayed, the old and prudent will often *look back* on their pre"ſent happineſs with regret, and conſider the peace and ſecurity, "the ſtate of viſible improvement, and brotherly equality, which "they enjoyed under their mother country, as the true *golden age* "*of America*."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WILLIAMSBURG, *April* 19, 1776.

THE Viſitors and Governors of the College, are deſired to meet on the 2d *Monday* in next Month, at 10 o'Clock in the Morning.

By Order of the Rector,
M. DAVENPORT, Cl. Viſit.

(2)

A COMPLETE FULLING-MILL is now finiſhing on *Lanſdown* Mill-Dam, in *Richmond* County, where all manner of *Fulling*, *Shearing*, *Preſſing*, and *Dying*, will be performed, on the moſt reaſonable Terms, by
LAWRENCE M'KINNY.

STOLEN from the Subſcriber, the 14th Inſt. *(April)* in the Night, a large LIGHT GREY HORSE, ſeven Years old this Spring, about 4 feet 9 Inches high, has a Switch Tail, roached Mane, about Half grown, wall-eyed, one ſcarcely perceiveable, remarkable flat Feet, and very thick about his Withers, with three or four ſmall Scars thereon; paces, trots, and gallops. and works exceeding well. From ſeveral corroborating Circumſtances, the ſaid Horſe was ſtolen, by a Perſon who had been lurking in the Neighbourhood two or three Days, and ſaid his Name was *Samuel Flanagan*. He is rather larger than the Middle Size, of a ſwarthy Complexion, dark Hair, and has a large Ringworm on his Face. Whoever delivers the ſaid Horſe to me in *Surry* County, near the Courthouſe, ſhall have forty Shillings Reward, and five Pounds on Conviction of the Thief. (2) ROBERT PYLAND.

SUNDRY GOODS, imported contrary to the Continental Aſſociation, will be ſold at Mr. *Humphrey Billups*'s, *in Glouceſter*, for ready Money, on *Monday* the 29th Inſtant.—*April* 16, 1776. (2)

TO BE SOLD,

A VERY valuable TRACT of LAND in the County of *Brunſwick*, containing about 900 Acres, has on it an exceeding good and elegant Dwelling-Houſe, quite new, and all convenient Outhouſes. It is ſituated within 7 Miles of the Courthouſe, within 3 of Church, and within 35 of *Peterſburg*. There is a valuable Orchard on the ſaid Land, with a Stream, well calculated for a Mill, on which one is already begun. The Purchaſer may enter on it immediately, if he inclines, and the Terms will be made eaſy to him.

(2) BENJAMIN SIMMONS.

WHEREAS the Bonds taken on the Sale of the Eſtate of *Samuel Swann*, late of *Nanſemond*, deceaſed, will become due the 24th of *May* next, and the Executor being deſirous to make up his Adminiſtration as ſoon as poſſible, he begs the Favour of all Creditors and Debtors to the ſaid Eſtate to meet him in *Suffolk* at that Time, in Order to ſettle their reſpective Accounts. As he lives at a conſiderable Diſtance from that Place, he hopes Gentlemen concerned will not diſappoint him; and as it may be inconvenient to ſome concerned to meet at any particular Day, he propoſes attending till the Middle of *June*.

JOHN SWANN, Executor.

GLOUCESTER, *April* 10, 1776.

For SALE, for ready Money only.

NARROW Hoes, Bar Iron, Iron Spice Mortars, Door Hinges and Bolts, Saw Reſts, Gouges, Augers, Sheep Sheers, Hand Saws, Table Butts, &c. Dovetail Hinges, Deſk and Cupboard Locks, Chair Nails, Tobacco and Snuff Boxes, Tailors Shears, Women's Sciſſors, Silver and Braſs Thimbles, Watch Seals, Stock, Shoe, and Knee Buckles, Lancets, Cork-Screws, Pencils, Taper and Center Bitts, Watch Keys, Spectacles, Knitting Pins, Awl Blades, Inkpowder, Nuns and coloured Thread, Knee Garters, plain and Diaper Tape, Sewing Silk, Pewter Porringers and Diſhes, Tin Cullenders, Egg Slicers, Iron Candleſticks, Copper Tea-Kettles, Luſtring, Perſian Taffeta, Waiſtcoat Stuff, Engliſh Perſian, Velvet Hoods, Bombazine, black Silk Gloves, Chintz, printed Linens and Callicoes, thick and Book Muſlin, Marſeilles Quilting, Muſlin Handkerchiefs, ſpotted Gauze, Cambrick, Men's, Women's, and Girls Gloves, Women's Cotton Hoſe, Men's Worſted and Silk ditto, black Gimp, Cloth Mantlet, flowered Silk Capuchins, Blond and Silk Lace, Common Prayer Books, Bibles, Watt's Hymns & Pſalms, Teſtaments, Pſalters, Spelling Books, Hiſtories, Children's Books, Pocket Books, Playing Cards, Horn and Ivory Combs, Fans, Dutch Pretties, Gartering, Quality Binding, Silk Ferreting, Stone Water Pitchers, Porringers, Cups, &c. Wine Glaſſes, Tumblers, Glaſs and China Bowls, Muſtard Pots, Rings and Caſtors, Punch Ladles, Stone and Delf Plates, Queen's China Diſhes, black Leather and Seal Skin Trunks, Riband, Collaring, Necklaces, Women's and Girls Bonnets, Hand-Saws, Trowels, Dripping-Pans, Girths, Bridles, Stirrup Leathers and Irons, Bridle Bits, Whips, Men's coarſe and fine Hats, Youths ditto, Shot Belts, Needles, Silk Twiſt, Buttons, Crewel, Bugles, Gold Rings, common and Briſtol Stone Sleeve Buttons, Thimbles, Razor Straps, Violin, Shalloons, Calimancoes, Durants, Cambrick, Dr. Norris's Antimonial Drops, Glaſs of Antimony, Salt of Amber, Cinnamon, Ingredients for Bitters, Reap Hooks, Ginger, Men's and Women's Leather Shoes, Women's Calimanco ditto, Children's Morocco ditto, Shirt Buttons, Waiſtcoat do. common Laces, Fiſhing Tackle, Snuff, Chewing Tobacco, Coffee, Soal Leather, Harneſs ditto, Calf Skins, Loaf Sugar, Soap, Candles, Leather Breeches, Hair Sifters, Wool Cards, Writing Paper, Wires and Bruſhes for Muſkets, and many other trifling Articles too tedious to mention.

MATTHEW ANDERSON.

Head Quarters, WILLIAMSBURG, *April* 19, 1776.

DESERTED from the *Halifax* regular Company (now in this City) on *Wedneſday* the 16th Inſtant, three Soldiers, *viz.* JOSEPH MITCHELL BLAIR, about 23 Years of Age, 5 Feet 8 or 9 Inches high, has a wide Mouth, blue Eyes, black Hair, and freckled Face. He carried with him a dark coloured new Hunting Shirt. His inſide Clothing I do not remember.—JAMES TROOP, about the Age of *Blair*, about 5 Feet 10 Inches high, has blue Eyes, dark curling Hair, ſtoops in his Shoulders, but otherwiſe well made. He carried with him a dark coloured Hunting Shirt. What other Clothes he had I do not know.—WILLIAM HILL, 19 Years of Age, 5 Feet 8 or 9 Inches high, ſpare made, of a dark Complexion, with black Hair and black Eyes. He had with him a ſtriped *Virginia* Cloth Hunting Shirt, which he has dyed almoſt black, a Snuff coloured Coat, blue Duffil Waiſtcoat, and Leather Breeches.—The above Deſerters carried away three of the Country's Rifles. They were enliſted in *Halifax* County, to which I expect they will endeavour to return.—Any Perſon or Perſons who will deliver the above Deſerters to the Company to which they belong, or ſecure them ſo that I may get them, ſhall be handſomely rewarded by

NATHANIEL COCKE, Captain.

FALMOUTH, *April* 8, 1776,

We intend to leave the Colony ſoon.

ANDREW ROBERTSON.
GEORGE CUNINGHAM.
DUGALD BANNATYNE.

FREDERICKSBURG, *April* 10, 1776.

We intend to leave the Colony ſoon.

JAMES BLAIR.
JAMES GALLAWAY.
JAMES DOUGLAS.

STRAYED, from *Burwell*'s Ferry, on *Tueſday* the 9th Inſtant *(April)* a BAY HORSE, ſhod All-Fours, had on his Saddle and Bridle, and branded on the near Buttock thus O. Whoever brings the ſaid Horſe to me, in *Williamſburg*, ſhall be handſomely rewarded for their Trouble.

JONATHAN PROSSER.

TAKEN up, in *Charlotte*, a BAY HORSE, branded on the near Buttock O, and appears to be very old. Poſted, and appraiſed to five Pounds ten Shillings.

FRANCIS M. PITTY.

THE People called Quakers, and ſeveral charitable Perſons not of their Society, commiſerating the Sufferings of many of the late Inhabitants of *Norfolk*, who are reduced to Poverty and Want by the Deſtruction of that Town, and having collected ſome Proviſions for their Relief, were ſending them down by Water, with Perſons deputed to diſtribute them, but finding it diſagreeable to General *Lee*, hereby give Notice, that theſe Proviſions will be ſtored at ſome ſafe Place up *James* River, for the Uſe of ſuch poor Inhabitants as may ſtand in Need, at the Diſpoſition of *Joſeph Scott* in *Nanſemond*, *Anſelm Bailey* in *Surry*, *John Crew* in *Charles City*, *Robert Pleaſants* in *Henrico*, the Rev. *William Harriſon*, and *Edward Stabler*, in *Peterſburg*.

PETERSBURG, *April* 8, 1776.

THE Subſcriber has on Hand a few Quarter Caſks of fine old LISBON WINE, which he will diſpoſe of on very reaſonable Terms, for ready Money.

EDWARD STABLER.

TO BE SOLD,

THE Houſes and Lots wherein the Subſcriber now lives, in the Town of *Peterſburg*, conſiſting of a large Dwelling-Houſe, Storehouſe, and all convenient Outhouſes, in good Repair; a large Garden and Paſture adjoining, and the Situation equal to any in the Colony for Buſineſs. It is ſo well known, that a particular Deſcription is unneceſſary. Alſo a few Houſe Servants, Houſehold Furniture, &c. a Lot in the Town of *Peterſburg*, and 400 Acres of good Tobacco Land in *Charlotte*. The Purchaſers may have Poſſeſſion immediately, and the Payment made eaſy by giving approved Security.—As I intend leaving the Colony, thoſe who have any Demands againſt me are deſired to apply for Payment; and all Perſons indebted, it is hoped, will either diſcharge their Accounts, or think it reaſonable to give Security.

As the Purchaſers of the Land in *Ward's Fork*, belonging to *John Lidderdale*, Eſq; of *London*, are in ſome doubt of their having a Right, this is to inform them, that the Deeds will be ſent, properly executed, with an Acknowledgment of Mrs. *Lidderdale*'s Right of Dower, when the Times will admit of an Opportunity, and may be aſſured of having a moſt undoubted Title made them. They will likewiſe pleaſe to obſerve, that the Deeds will not be recorded till the Money is paid, agreeable to the Terms of Sale. And if any of the Purchaſers are in Doubt of my being properly authoriſed to make Sale of the Lands, they may be fully ſatisfied at the Secretary's Office, where the Power of Attorney is recorded.

RICHARD HANSON.

THE NOTED HORSE

REGULUS,

Late the Property of WILLIAM FITZHUGH, *Eſq; of* Chatham,

NOW ſtands at the *Falls* Plantation, in *Cheſterfield*, in high Perfection, and will cover Mares this Seaſon at 30s. the Leap ready Money, or Merchants Notes, and 4l. the Seaſon, for which Notes on Demand, or Merchants Orders, will be expected before the Mares are taken away, when a Diſcount of 15 *per Cent.* may be had on prompt Payment. Enſurance 6l. The Mares by the Seaſon will run in as fine Paſture as any in the Colony, and all poſſible Care will be taken of them, but I will not be anſwerable for Eſcapes, or any that may be ſtolen.

REGULUS is a beautiful Bay, full ſized, well marked, and remarkable for getting fine Foals, both as to Beauty and Size. He was bred by the late Col. *Baylor*, and got by his Horſe FEARNOUGHT, out of JENNY DISMAL, who was got by old DISMAL; he won 1000 Guineas Sweepſtakes, and five King's Plates, without ever being once beaten. His Sire was the GODOLPHIN ARABIAN. JENNY DISMAL's DAM was got by Lord *Godolphin*'s WHITEFOOT.

REGULUS, while the Property of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, won 50l. at *Port Royal*, at *Annapolis* two 50 pounds (where he beat the famous running Horſe APOLLO, and the firſt Rate Horſes of *Maryland*) at *Upper Marlbrough* 50l. at *Leeds* Town 60l. and at *Fredericksburg* the Jockey Club of 100 Guineas, at which Time he carried 10 Stone; and, although a covering Horſe, he beat Mr. *Page*'s Horſe DAMON, Mr. *Brent*'s Horſe FIGURE, Mr. *Spotſwood*'s Horſe ECLIPSE, and ſeveral others.

WILLIAM BLACK.

☞ It was, in ſome Meaſure, neceſſary to be thus particular, to diſtinguiſh this Horſe from one of the ſame Name who lately ſtood in this Neighbourhood.

STRAYED from *Williamſburg*, the firſt of this Inſtant *(April)* a ruſty black Mare about 13 Hands and a Half high, with a hanging Mane and Switch Tail, paces ſlowly, and branded on the near Buttock WW in a Piece. It is expected ſhe will make for *Hanover*, where ſhe was bred. Whoever delivers her to *George Dabney*, Junior, in *Hanover*, ſhall have a Reward of 20s.

WILLIAMSBURG, *April* 13, 1776.

THOSE Gentlemen who are ſtill indebted to the Eſtate of Mrs. *Clementina Rind*, deceaſed, and Mr. *John Pinkney*, for Gazettes, &c. are deſired to be ſo obliging as to ſend their reſpective Balances by the Hands of thoſe Gentlemen who are choſen Delegates for the reſpective Counties, as they are expected to meet here the Beginning of next Month. This will be acknowledged as a particular Favour, as there are many large Debts ſtill due from the ſaid Eſtate. Proper Accounts and Receipts will be delivered to the Perſons who ſettle with

Their very humble Servant,
JACOB BRUCE,
For the Adminiſtrator.

☞ Thirteen Months Gazette due Mrs. *Rind*'s Eſtate, 13/6; ſixteen Ditto due Mr. *John Pinkney*, 16/8.

STOLEN from the Subſcriber, on his March from *Auguſta* to *Williamſburg*, at *New Kent* Courthouſe, on *Monday* the 9th Inſtant, a very neat RIFLE GUN, the Stock of Sugar Tree curled, made pretty dark by Aquafortis, a Braſs Box and Braſs wire, flouriſhed in the Breech, and J° *Grattan* on the Barrel, below the hind Sight. I hereby forewarn any Perſon from purchaſing the ſaid Gun, and will give any Perſon 20s. who will deliver her to the Printers hereof, and I promiſe that no Queſtions ſhall be aſked.

JOHN GRATTAN.

STRAYED, or STOLEN, from Mr. *James Hunter*'s Paſture in *King George*, a large BAY MARE, 5 Years old, not branded, ſhod all Fours, has a Star in her Forehead, both hind Feet white, and a hanging Mane, and Switch Tail. Whoever delivers her to the Subſcriber, in *Fredericksburg*, ſhall have 20s. Reward, and reaſonable Charges.

JAMES HUNTER, Junior.